

CLAIMS

1. An integrated circuit including:

an output pad,

an output block coupled to the output pad via a capacitor,

5 a first one-way conduction element for connecting the pad to a supply line when the voltage on the pad exceeds the voltage of the supply line by a first threshold voltage,

a second one-way conduction element for connecting the pad to the circuit ground when the voltage on the pad is smaller than the ground voltage by a second threshold voltage, and

10 a resistor coupled on the one hand to the output pad and on the other hand to the supply line via a switch controlled to be turned off when the circuit is idle and to be turned on when the circuit is in a normal operating mode.

2. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the resistor has a small value as compared to a  
15 D.C. impedance of the load likely to be connected to the pad and a large value as compared to the A.C. impedance of said load.

3. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the switch is a MOS transistor.

20 4. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the first one-way conduction element is formed of a group of series-connected diodes.

5. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the second one-way conduction element includes two series-connected diodes.

25 6. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the output block includes:  
a bipolar transistor, the collector of which is connected to the capacitor, the emitter of which is grounded, and the base of which receives the signal to be amplified, and  
an inductive resistor connected between the collector of the bipolar transistor and the  
30 supply line.